NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

April 5, 1996

***MEMBERS' NIGHT 1996*:**

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The 45th Annual Members' Night will be held on Friday, May 3 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The membership department is seeking volunteers to help greet people at the north and south doors, distribute guidebooks, and to perform other jobs as needed. Volunteers are being asked to work a minimum of one hour. All will receive a meal ticket that can be used that evening at McDonald's or Picnic In The Field. We also welcome and encourage your friends and family to serve as volunteers.

Give Away Items

Each year on Members' Night you have the opportunity to give away any unwanted items your department may have in quantity. Member's love to receive gifts and you have the opportunity to clean out your storage areas. Suggested items are back issues of publications, posters, gift items, etc. Please let us know if you will have items to donate by April 26.

If you have any questions, please call **Susan Webb** (x861). Thank you.

***FREE FOR STAFF*:**

LECTURES AND BOOKSIGNINGS

Springtime is bringing five exciting lectures on a variety of topics to The Field Museum. For a free staff ticket to any of the lectures listed below please contact **Beth Adams** (x854). You can purchase tickets for a guest at the $8 member's rate. Complete lecture descriptions are in the *Spring 1996 Field Guide Programs for Adults & Children* brochure.

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Tangible Visions: Northwest Coast Indian Art Made for Shamanic Use
Allen Wardwell, Author & Art Historian
Saturday, April 6, 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Wardwell's new book *Tangible Visions* is a comprehensive study of the spectacular ritual objects created for Northwest Coast Indian shamans. References to objects in the Museum's collections will be made. Books will be available after the lecture for purchase and signing.

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The Sixth Extinction: Patterns of Life & the Future of Mankind
Roger Lewin, Author
Saturday, April 13, 2:00 p.m.

Roger Lewin is co-author with Dr. Richard

Leakey of *The Sixth Extinction*, a new, informative and lyrical work about the evolution of the natural world and the future of humanity within it. Books will be available after the lecture for purchase and signing.

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Lessons in Conservation from Prehistory
Dr. Richard Leakey
Saturday, April 27, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Richard Leakey, recipient of the 1996 Award of Merit by the Founders Council, will share his life's work and current directions in this afternoon lecture. Dr. Leakey continued his parent's, Louis and Mary Leakey, relentless search for early human remains and has made his own sensational discoveries. While serving as director of the Kenya Wildlife Service he successfully lobbied the world community to ban the importation and sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn. Currently, he has joined other Kenyans in forming the Safina political party.

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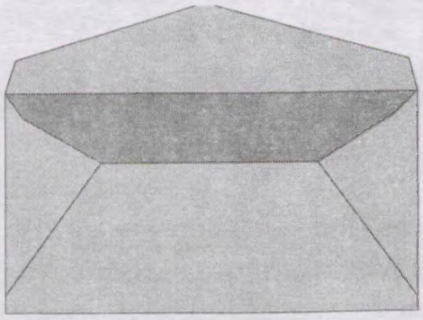
Colors to Dye For
Michele Wipplinger, Owner, Caracol, Inc.
Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Wipplinger's passion for natural dyes has led her to found a Seattle-based company to work with the American textile industry to incorporate the use of non-polluting dyes. Learning from indigenous artisans from Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Thailand, India and China she will share how the secrets for creating color from berries, leaves and shells unfold.

The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions
David Quammen, Author
Saturday, May 18, 2:00 p.m.

Islands become unusual evolutionary experiments because of their isolation resulting in amazing creatures such as giant lizards and pygmy elephants. Mr. Quammen will discuss island biogeography and his newest book, *The Song of the Dodo* using a unique combination of science, historical narrative and travel. Copies of *The Song of the Dodo* will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.



PLEASE return all unused inter-office reply envelopes to the mailroom immediately, so other staff members will be able to use them.

Thank you -- **Frantz Eliacin**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to welcome **Pamela Reynolds** as the Museum's new Coordinator of Sponsored Programs. Pam will develop, coordinate and implement grant funding strategies for the Museum (primarily federal, state and local government agencies), represent the Museum in the development of proposals with other institutions, and write and submit proposals that are suitable for a variety of agencies. She also will act as a liaison between The Field Museum and state, federal and local governments (other than the Chicago Park District), and will be the Museum's representative to the City Council, Department of Cultural Affairs and other local agencies. Pam also will serve as the Academic Affairs point person in the Museum's Campaign. Previously Pam worked as Assistant Director of Development/Corporations & Foundations for Metropolitan Family Services (formerly United Charities) and at the National PTA. Pam has a Masters degree in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University and a Bachelors degree in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pam may be found in the Academic Affairs office on the third floor and may be reached at extension 877. Welcome, Pam!

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

TERRELL ON BLUEGRASS

John Edward Terrell (Anthropology) was in Nashville during the third week of March to give an invited public lecture at Vanderbilt University on "The Stability and Complexity of Egalitarian Societies: Ethnographic, Ethnohistorical, and Archaeological Research on the Sepik Coast of New Guinea." He confesses that he also listened to some bluegrass music.

HAAS ON ANCIENT WARFARE

Jonathan Haas (Anthropology) was the keynote speaker at a conference on "Ancient Warfare: Archaeological Perspectives" held at the University of Durham, England, on March 15-17. His talk was on "The Origins of War and Ethnic Violence" and focused on the insights to be gained through the archaeological study of war.

Abstract

There is a widespread notion that warfare and ethnic violence are somehow inherent and inevitable in the human species. However, the evidence we have of warfare in the contemporary and historic eras all comes from either large nation states or societies heavily influenced by outside nation-states. In order to fully understand the causes and nature of warfare and ethnic violence it is necessary to turn to the archaeological record of cultures and times prior to the emergence of nation-states. This paper uses the archaeological record from North America to illustrate the value of archaeology in studying the origins and evolution of patterns of warfare in a prehistoric context. The evidence from North America shows that warfare first appears only after several thousand years of human occupation. Even after its first appearance, warfare is not a constant in most regions but an intermittent phenomenon that develops only under conditions of environmental and demographic stress. Furthermore, there are ample examples of the full appearance and manifestation of ethnically distinct groups

coexisting side-by-side for centuries with no manifestations of intergroup conflict or war. The archaeology of warfare ultimately provides significant insights into the underlying causes and conditions behind the warfare and ethnic violence that inflict so much of humanity in the present world.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE: MEENAKSHI MUSES ON "MARTIAN" METEORITES

Meenakshi Wadhwa, Assistant Curator of Meteoritics and Mineralogy (Geology), has just returned from four weeks of research at the Isotope Geology and Geochronology laboratory at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California - San Diego), where she worked on a project involving the radiometric age dating of carbonates in ALH84001, a meteorite belonging to the SNC group, believed to have originated on the planet Mars. These carbonates most likely precipitated from CO2-rich aqueous fluids that had at one time circulated through the crust of Mars, and therefore age dates on these minerals will be important in constraining the timing at which this event occurred. Age dates on these minerals also have implications for the evolution of the martian atmosphere. It has been determined from previous studies that carbonates in ALH84001 have heavy stable isotopic signatures, implying that at the time they formed, the atmosphere of Mars was quite fractionated (relative to that of the Earth) from preferential loss of lighter isotopes. Therefore, age dates on these carbonates will help to determine whether this fractionation occurred relatively early or late in the geologic history of Mars. Results of this work will be presented at the 59th annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society in July, 1996. After the research trip, Meenakshi attended the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston, Texas, and presented a paper on trace element distributions in another "martian" meteorite, the newly-discovered QUE94201.

GRANDE ROCKS WORLD CAPITALS IN 1996 EUROPEAN TOUR

Lance Grande, Curator of Fossil Fishes (Geology) returned this week from a whirlwind research trip through European museums, as part of his NSF project on amiid fishes. Accompanied by Research Associate Willy Bemis of University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Lance attacked his studies of fossil and living fish material with characteristic zeal, scouring the collections at the British Museum (Natural History) in London, the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Institut de Paléontologie) in Paris, and the Bayerischen Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Historisch Geologie in Munich, all in the space of six days, in his never-ending quest for a deeper understanding of the bowfins and their relatives. Among the more exciting finds at the Paris museum was a number of extremely well-preserved Triassic (200 million years old) amiid-like fishes from Madagascar. These specimens, which include complete skeletons, are now being prepared by **Steve McCarroll** and **Kathy Passaglia** in The Field Museum's Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, and will be included in Lance and Willy's monograph on amiiform fishes of the world.

***REMINDER:** It is best for staff in Academic Affairs to submit **Natural News** items first to **Lori Breslauer**, so that these items can be more readily used by her in the preparation of other Academic Affairs reports.*

WELCOME!

Staff Members who started at the Museum in March

Erelah Ajao-Spears	Education	Community Outreach Asst	478
Walter Alexander	Housekeeping	Housekeeper	371
Richard Bermingham	Vending	Vending Assistant	550
Dhana Boyd	Housekeeping	Housekeeper	371
Dan Brinkmeier	Education	Harris Loan Center Coord	361
Sarah Highstone	Development	Friends Group Coordinator	874
Naveeda Khan	CCUC	Administrative Assistant	669
Pamela Reynolds	Academic Affairs	Sponsored Programs Coord	877
Isabel (Mia) Schillace	Museum Affairs	Administrative Assistant	513
Caroline Wiecking	Exhibits	Assistant Developer	687

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK...

Staff Members who left the Museum in March

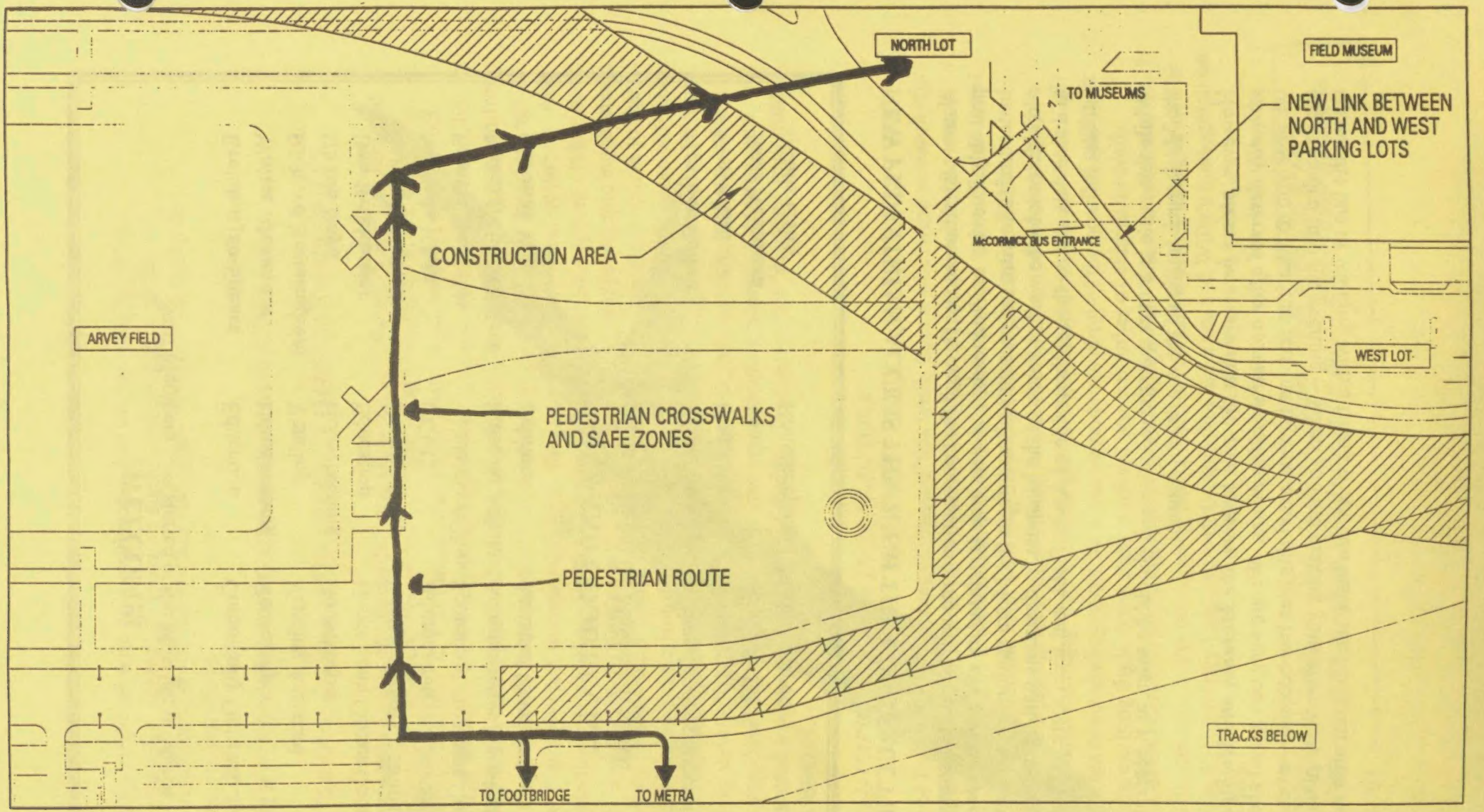
Heather Bolton	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Supervisor
Sonya Hill	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Rose Neumann	Tours	Secretary II
Julius Osho	Housekeeping	Housekeeper

NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

A new pedestrian access through the construction zone will be created sometime next week -- probably Tuesday or Wednesday. ***A new map is printed on the reverse side of this page.*** Instead of following the present walkway from the Metra station across Columbus and over the old sidewalk to the west entrance of the Museum, pedestrians will be routed north of the Metra to a sidewalk across the southern side of Arvey Field, and from there to the Museum's north parking lot.

While this route is longer than the old access, it should be safer, as it separates pedestrians from the Mack truck traffic of the construction zone.

However, ***please be aware that the area between the Museum and Michigan Avenue is virtually deserted after normal working hours.*** We are very concerned about your security and we urge you to take into account how deserted this area has become -- even as the daylight hours are extended into the evening -- when you are making your after-work plans. Please consider taking the bus or walking with a friend when you leave the Museum after normal hours.



1996 CONSTRUCTION

REROUTED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC THROUGH CONSTRUCTION ZONE

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4-5-96

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, April 2, 1996 was delivered by **John Terrell,** Curator Oceanic Archaeology and Ethnology, Department of Anthropology, Field Museum. John discussed his New Guinea Research Program in terms of traditional themes in Anthropology which try to distinguish between human attributes driven by genetic programming and those attributes shaped by a given social construct. By asking "What generates similarity?" rather than "Why are people different?", John shifted the entire paradigm to give greater insights into understanding the evolution of the peoples of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. He noted a small number of Pleistocene sites in New Guinea indicate human presence nearly 60,000 years ago, an entire order of magnitude longer than previously thought, yet another paradigm shift. He discussed colonization routes from Micronesia into Polynesia, as well as a voyaging corridor favoring the development of trade along the northern coast of New Guinea. Detailed studies with **Robert Welsch** have documented an institutionalized inherited friendship trade and exchange relationship across the linguistically diverse Sepik Coast. Clearly attributes such as language have changed at very different rates from attributes influencing the production of the cultural artifacts traded.

Save Money on Temporary Employees...

Prestige Employment Services has a special offering for The Field Museum. Any day that the Museum employs five or more temporary employees from Prestige, we will automatically receive a 5% discount on all invoices for that day. Managers may call any of the approved temporary agencies listed in the *Who's Who and How To* manual, but Prestige is the only agency offering us this generous discount. Call Heidi Snell at ext. 531 with any questions.

Prestige Employment Services
(312) 922-6020

Don't forget to check out the **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** board for the latest position openings within the Museum as well as external employment opportunities. The board is located outside the Personnel office on the ground floor.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- on floppy disk or via email (to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org) is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

TRUSTEE HUGO MELVOIN'S SPEECH TO VOLUNTEERS

AT THE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT ON TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 1996

I have two assignments tonight. First to thank you for the work you've already accomplished. Second, to introduce and welcome a man whose job has just begun.

Anita Morgan has reminded me that no one gets to eat before this program is over, so I intend to follow the wise training of my father: He gave me three easy lessons. First, stand up so people can see you; second, speak clearly so people can hear you; third, sit down so people will like you.

For 25 years I have had the privilege of working, first, with **Lee Webber** and then **Sandy Boyd,** together with a group of decent, caring men and women who, as trustees, seek to provide guidance and establish policies intended to maintain and enhance Field Museum's position as one of the four great natural history museums in the world.

In another minute or two you will hear the details from Sandy on the remarkable number of volunteers and the impressive hours of work you have contributed to Field Museum. My goal is different. I simply want to identify one special aspect of your work that may not have occurred to you before I sit down. That aspect goes beyond the specific jobs you have performed and relates to your commitment, your loyalty and, above all, to what I call your *validation* of Field Museum's mission. As I see it, the fundamental work of our Museum is measured and reinforced by your presence every time one of you enters the Museum.

It takes nothing away from the work of the Trustees and the outstanding staff of Field Museum to emphasize that your validation of their work is critical to the well-being of the Museum. The possibility of becoming ossified is a constant risk to institutions as well as to individuals. It takes guts and lots of hard thought to make the changes needed to stay on the cutting edge of science and exhibition. But who can tell us whether we're still on the right track? I say it's our volunteers who provide this vital function. By your willingness to come back week after week, year after year, your presence and your comments tell us when we are stumbling as well as when we are doing something right. Collectively, you comprise a unique group. You don't come for the pay; and we can't force you to come if you're not satisfied with what you are doing. To all of the publics to whom we owe an annual accounting, you are the most important in my book, so I want to close this part of my comments by thanking you on behalf of all of our staff and my fellow Trustees for this special, added contribution you give to our Museum.

Now I want to introduce the man who has agreed to take on the toughest role of all, when Sandy carries out his dream next Fall to return to academia and resume his teaching career in the law school at Iowa: our new leader and President-elect of Field Museum, **John McCarter.**